THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Office of the Chairman, North Eastern Council which had earlier been held by the Governor of Assam and Meghalaya, has fallen vacant with the appointment of separate Governors of Assam and Meghalaya. The question of appointment of Chairman, North Eastern Council, is under consideration of the Government in view of the changed circumstances.

Agreement with the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series

932. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for sudden back out of Doordarshan from an agreement with the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series authorities regarding live coverage of the recent matches in Australasia Cup at Sharjah;

(b) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has drastically curtailed current affairs programme; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Doordarshan had not signed any agreement with the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series (CBFS) authorities for live telecast of matches.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The frequency of telecast of the current affairs programmes has, in fact, been doubled. Now approximately four current affairs programmes are telecast every week as against only two earlier.

Increase in Production by Indian Telephone Industries

933. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Telephone Industries have undertaken two-fold increase in production; and

(b) if so, what are the technologically advanced equipments manufactured by Indian Telephone Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The Indian Telephone Industries Limited increased its production from Rs. 454 crores in 1986-87 to Rs. 938 crores in 1989-90 *i.e.* two fold increase in three years.

(b) Some of the technologically advanced equipments manufactured by Indian Telephone Industries include:

I. *Switching* : (i) MILT
(ii) C-DOT RAX
(iii) E SAX
(iv) ILT
(v) E 10 B

II. *Telephones* : Electronic Push Button E-88.

III. *Transmission Equipments* :

(i) Digital Coaxial Equipment (34 and 140 MB/S)
(ii) Digital Radio (6, 13 GHz)
(iii) Digital UHF 120 Channel
(iv) Optical Fibre Equipment (140 MB/S)
(v) Higher order MUX (8 and 34 MB/S)
(vi) Single Channel VHF
(vii) Multi Access Rural Radio Equipment
(viii) Special Equipment for Defence Network.